

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /129 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2241

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UNCLAS CALGARY 0136

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: ALBERTA GAS EXPORT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: CALGARY 0054

1. ACCORDING TO SENIOR PAN ALBERTA GAS LTD. EXECUTIVE, REPRESENTATIVES OF ALBERTA GAS TRUNK LINE, NORTHWEST PIPE-LINE LTD., AND PACIFIC LIGHTING WILL MEET IN LOS ANGELES MARCH 10 TO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR DELIVERY OF 200 MMCF/D OF ALBERTA GAS VIA FOOTHILLS B.C. ALREADY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT BETWEEN PAN ALBERTA AND UNITED GAS PIPELINE OF HOUSTON FOR 800 MMCF/D WILL ALSO BE SIGNED IN LOS ANGELES ON MARCH 10. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNITED IS COMMITTED TO TAKE 400 MMCF/D AND THAT REMAINDER WILL BE SOLD TO OTHER EASTERN U.S. GAS DISTRIBUTORS. WHEN THE MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED, PAN ALBERTA WILL COMPLETE ITS GAS EXPORT APPLICATION NOW PENDING BEFORE THE ALBERTA ERCB AND CONCURRENTLY PRESENT THIS FINALIZED APPLICATION TO NEB. SUBMISSION TO NEB WILL NOTE THAT FORMAL CONCURRENCE OF ALBERTA GOVERNMENT REMAINS PENDING. PAN ALBERTA APPLICATION IS TO BE READY BY MAY, AND ERCB PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALBERTA CABINET WILL REPORTEDLY BE COMPLETED BY MID-SUMMER.

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2. COMMENT: WHILE THERE ARE, ACCORDING TO KEY ALBERTA AND SOUTHERN OFFICIAL, NUMBER OF CONTRACTIONAL DIFFERENCES TO BE RESOLVED BETWEEN NORTHWEST PIPELINE CO. AND U.S. SHIPPERS, ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREBUILDING OF SOUTHERN LEG OF ALCAN PIPE-LINE APPEAR FROM HERE TO BE FALLING INTO PLACE. WE VIEW PLAN FOR CONCURRENT SUBMISSION OF PAN ALBERTA S EXPORT

APPLICATION TO BOTH ERCB AND NEB AS STRONG INDICATION OF
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT BASIC COMMITMENT TO ALASKAN GAS PIPELINE.
THIS WAS ALSO SUGGESTED IN THRONE SPEECH AT OPENING OF
ALBERTA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MARCH 2 WHEN LOUGHEED GOVERN-
MENT NOTED SIGNIFICANT IMPACT THAT ALCAN PIPELINE PROJECT
WOULD HAVE ON ALBERTA AND CANADA AND REITERATED ITS DETER-
MINATION TO PRESS AHEAD WITH IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE
AND TARIFF MATTERS.
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